

Applicant: Takemi Aonumar  
Serial No.: 09/889,263  
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Page 4

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Upon entry of the present amendment, the claims will stand as follows:

Please cancel claims 2- 4 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A microorganism [[belonging to the genus]] *Bacillus subtilis takemi* having deposit No. FERM BP-6589, [[that]] which is capable of reducing nitrates, [[and]] contains chitin and/or chitosan in its cell walls and has a smell of coffee.

Claims 2- 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Withdrawn) A method for improving soil using the microorganism of claim 1.
6. (Withdrawn) A composition for improving soil comprising the microorganism of claim 1.
7. (Withdrawn) A method for treating organic waste by fermentation using the microorganism of claim 1.
8. (Withdrawn) A composition for treating organic waste through fermentation comprising the microorganism of claim 1.
9. (Withdrawn) A method for fermenting soybeans using the microorganism of claim 1.
10. (Withdrawn) Soybeans that have been fermented using the microorganism of claim 1.

Applicant: Takemi Aonumar  
Serial No.: 09/889,263  
Filed: October 16, 2001  
Page 5

11. (Withdrawn) A method of using the microorganism of claim 1 as a feed additive.
12. (Original) A feed additive comprising the microorganism of claim 1.
13. (Withdrawn) A method of using the microorganism of claim 1 for reducing bitterness.
14. (Withdrawn) A composition for reducing bitterness comprising the microorganism of claim 1.
15. (Withdrawn) A method of using the microorganism of claim 1 as a food additive.
16. (Original) A food additive comprising the microorganism of claim 1.
17. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting bacterial growth using the microorganism of claim 1.
18. (Withdrawn) An anti-microbial composition comprising the microorganism of claim 1.